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Gaeta in 1861 (p. 122) and places the Italian annexation of Venice, resulting from the Italo-Prussian alliance, in the conditional instead of in the past tense in a journal entry of 1867 (p. 278).

The student of Gregorovius's works will probably be disappointed in the contents of the *Roman Journals*. They give little detail upon the subjects of Gregorovius's medieval studies. Observations upon the state of the different archives in which he worked are scattered here and there, and many dates of the completion of chapters and the despatch of proof to Stuttgart are given, but the diary of this distinctly human historian relates rather to the history that was being made from day to day in Italy and Germany, than to the history which he was himself reconstructing in the archives. For Gregorovius the present served as a commentary upon the past, but it was more; in it was unfolding the sacred struggle for independence and unity in the two countries which he most loved, and his *Journals* are primarily a record of his interest and acute observations in the progress of these two great movements. He loved the Italy of his day, and he understood her as few Germans have done. "I regard the independence of Italy as a sacred national right", he wrote in 1859, "and if every Austrian were my brother, would myself urge the Italians to drive him out." His statements of historical fact recorded from day to day are untrustworthy, except for events of which he was himself an eye-witness, as those of Rome during the Garibaldian expedition of 1867—and these are important; but it is frequently of interest to know the reports of Italian affairs, though false, that were current, particularly in Rome, where most of his life was spent from 1852 to 1874. The annexation of Rome in 1870 was a bitter disappointment to him; the city seemed to lose its cosmopolitan, republican atmosphere as she "sank into becoming the capital of the Italians". Also in these later years Germanism showed a distinct revival in him; after the Prussian victories of 1866, and especially after those of 1870, an unfortunate sense of German superiority frequently manifests itself in his pages, reflecting diminished sympathy for Italy and understanding of her struggles, and foreshadowing the historian's return to the fatherland. But the sincerity of the *Journals* is illustrated by these changes of feeling and of perception. Statements were not altered when they were disproved by subsequent events, and recorded impressions were not altered when in the writer's mind they were supplanted; Gregorovius's views as they were written down from day to day have been faithfully preserved.

H. NELSON GAY.

*Contemporary France* (1870-1900). By GABRIEL HANOTAUX.  
Translated from the French. Volume III., 1874-1877. (New  
York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1907. Pp. ix, 634.)

THIS entire work, so far as published, and this volume in particular might be cited as a strong argument for the thesis, sometimes put for-

ward, that the best field for the historian is the epoch immediately preceding his own. M. Hanotaux has certainly shown that it is possible to obtain a sufficiently detached point of view so that the narrative will not be distorted or colored by personal feeling.

From the manner of the first two volumes, where Thiers figures as the hero of the first and the Comte de Chambord, though in less degree, as that of the second, it might be expected that Gambetta would be made the hero of the present volume. It is manifest that M. Hanotaux's personal admiration for Gambetta might have led him to treat that statesman as his hero. But the temptation has been resisted. Instead of a hero, we have the constitution of 1875 as the central theme. Its formation and the inauguration of government under it are traced with minute and painstaking accuracy. Such a topic, as the author remarks, is of the highest importance but extremely difficult to handle. On the whole there can be no doubt that the author has here achieved a decided success. It seems equally clear, to the present reviewer at least, that a still greater success would have been achieved if a different arrangement had been followed. Each of the nine chapters, except one which is a commentary on the constitution, is devoted to the narration of all the events which occurred within fixed subdivisions of the period covered by the volume. In accordance with this plan it is frequently necessary to interrupt the account of the evolution of the constitution to relate the history of other matters, especially foreign affairs. In consequence the reader is often forced to lose sight of the central theme and after an interval to return to it. When so short a period is covered and one with so much unity, it would seem altogether better that all matter which would not be treated so as to show a very direct relationship to the central theme, if it must be included, should be reserved for separate chapters after the main subject has been disposed of.

In general this volume has been constructed from published and comparatively well-known materials. Considerable use, however, has been made of the private papers of Decazes and occasionally those of MacMahon. The former enabled the author to furnish an exceedingly interesting and at some points novel account of the war scare of 1875. Supported by two or three positive statements to that effect in contemporary letters of Decazes, he asserts that Hohenlohe also had a share in inspiring the famous *Times* article of May 6, which, by calling the attention of all Europe to the danger, did much to avert it. The contention, however, needs support from some other source before it can be regarded as proven. M. Hanotaux's account of the whole affair leaves the impression that there was a very real danger, despite the German denial, and that war was averted principally through the diplomatic skill of Decazes and the assistance of Alexander II. The account does not present convincing proof that the danger was real, and assuming the existence of the danger, disregards the very plausible explanation offered by Blowitz in his *Memoirs*, an account which the author seems to have overlooked.

The translation shows on the whole an improvement over that of the first two volumes, apparently a new hand being at work. The method, however, is a bad one, and it may well excite wonder that so good a result has been produced. The original has been reduced about five per cent. in bulk by omitting a sentence or two out of about half the paragraphs and by pruning many of the sentences of a clause or two. At the same time a good many of the citations and elucidations contained in the foot-notes of the original have been omitted. At a few points additional paragraphs have been inserted, but without materially enhancing the utility of the work for English readers. The rendering into English is marked by comparatively few downright errors, yet is frequently perplexing. The weakest point is in the matter of political terms. The translator apparently has very little familiarity with English political terminology and is constantly getting homonyms instead of precise equivalents. The proof-reading has been rather carelessly done, especially in the matter of dates.

FRANK MALOY ANDERSON.

#### BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

*The American Nation: A History.* Edited by ALBERT BUSHNELL HART, Professor of History, Harvard University. In twenty-seven volumes. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. 1904-1908.)

As the various volumes of "The American Nation" have appeared they have been reviewed in the *AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*, but the completion of the work is of sufficient importance to warrant the consideration of the series as a whole. That twenty-six volumes by twenty-four different authors have been brought out within six years from the inception of the work and within three years after the publication of the first volume, is of itself a notable achievement. The credit for it is to be ascribed primarily to the untiring energy of the editor, the effects of which have been felt by those in no way connected with the enterprise. The results of this forcing process are evident throughout all the series—more so, somewhat surprisingly, in the later volumes—but the ill effects are more than counterbalanced by the advantage of obtaining a comprehensive treatment of American history that represents contemporary scholarship. It is impossible to say of this as one does of most co-operative histories, that the first volume has become out of date before the last has appeared.

"The principle of the whole series", wrote the editor in his introduction to the first volume, "is that every book shall be written by an expert for laymen; and every volume must therefore stand the double test of accuracy and readableness." In the course of the publication of "The American Nation", the writer of the present review has followed